

Tribal Monitoring Guidance Workgroup Conference Call 01/23/06

Attendees:

Annabelle Allison (ITEP), Bill Grantham (NTEC), Brandy Toft (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe), Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs), Farshid Farsi (TAMS), George Dilbeck (TAMS), Joy Wiecks (Fond du Lac), Roxanne Ellingson (Walker River Paiute Tribe), Ryan Callison (ITEC), Bill Nally (R6), Keith Rose (R10), Mary Manous (R10), Michael Copeland (R8), Norm Beloin (R1), Joe Tikvart (OAQPS/SEE), Julie McClintock (OAQPS), Phil Lorang (OAQPS), Tami Laplante (OAQPS)

Discussion:

Julie McClintock began the discussion by identifying four topics for the conference call. They are: (1) concept of two separate guidance documents; (2) status of report preparation; (3) review of new material recently submitted, i.e., Section V (Wiecks), Section VI (Lorang), and Section IX (Keith); and (4) next steps.

Concept of Two Separate Guidance Documents: Julie reiterated the plan to develop two guidance documents based on the draft material currently under development. Development of the new documents has yet to begin. The two guidance documents are tentatively titled: “Technical Guidance for Tribes on Air Monitoring Issues” and “EPA Policy and Strategies Regarding Tribal Air Monitoring”. Julie further noted that current expectations are a draft for review of the two guidance documents in March 2006, and completed documents in April 2006.

Status of Report Preparation: For the draft document currently being developed, Julie briefly reviewed the status of each section and steps necessary for completion. To facilitate comments on all sections the most recent complete draft will be loaded in MS Word format on the TribalAir website.

Section I – Julie McClintock will work with Bill Grantham to draft Purpose and Audience introductions that can eventually be used in both new guidance documents.

Section II – The original draft by Phil Lorang looks good; comments are welcome.

Section III – This draft has been updated by Joe Tikvart with current weblinks.

Section IV – Norm Beloin expects to make progress on this section. More tribal examples are desirable. Input is needed on whether to include indoor air or other topics. Norm plans to contact Keith Rose and other participants in writing this section and will meet the next deadline for a completed section.

Section V – Joy Wiecks, Brandi Toft, and Leland Grooms worked on this section and provided the enhanced draft to be discussed later in the conference call.

Section VI – Phil Lorang has completed this section which will be discussed later in the call.

Section VII – Motria Caudill (R5) has the lead on this section, but no representative was on this conference call and no new material has been provided; Julie will contact Motria for a status report and commitment for a final draft.

Section VIII – Farshid Farsi, Tami LaPlante, and George Dilbeck have committed to work on this section. They need feedback on material already prepared before drafting more. Joy Wiecks agreed to provide feedback. Phil Lorang suggested more material on “how to” rather than just “who owns” the data.

Section IX – Keith Rose has the lead on this section to be discussed later in the conference call.

Section X – We decided that EPA should take the lead on this section. Mary Manous (R10 – lead region on tribal matters) agreed to help with this section through material on the existing Region 10 website and to solicit input from Region 5 and other Regional Offices. Julie contacted Ken Cronin at NTEC. Who thought NTEC input is not needed.

Section XI – It appears that nothing has been done on this section. Annabelle Allison will try to work with Leroy Williams to see if progress can be made.

Section XII – This section has been completed by Lisa Riener and Joy Wiecks; it is okay as is until work on drafting the two separate guidance documents begins.

Review of New Material:

Section V. Implementation of Monitoring – Joy Wiecks, Brandi Toft, and Annabelle Allison have reorganized and fleshed out this section. They are making it more general for all pollutants, not just a focus on PM. Objectives have been enhanced and built on the National Monitoring Strategy. Comments are sought on the latest version of this Section. Some preliminary comments include: there is a need to address PM, PM NAAQS, and their effects on monitoring; link to AMTIC and/ or PM/O3/IRIS websites; quality assurance could be addressed; and there is a need to consider how audits are done and how this might relate to tribes.

Section VI. The Role of Tribal Monitoring in the National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy – Phil Lorang has completed this section. Major topics include: relationships between the National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy (NAAMS) and tribes; where the NAAMS comes from and its evolution; the need for tribes to define

their own goals which may be independent of the NAAMS; role of ROs in State assessments of monitoring; resolution of comments from Region 6. The RPOs and relationships with tribes need to be worked into the discussion.

Preliminary comments include: the need to indicate how tribes convey interest in the NMS; tribes may want to do more air quality work beyond the NAAMS that is local oriented; tribal interest in AIRNow and in IMPROVE should be reflected; there is a need to connect tribes with national data systems; there should be further clarification of the tribal role; relationships to Section V should be clarified and redundancies removed.

A distinction needs to be made between the draft National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy (NAAMS) and the new “policy and strategies” guidance document being lead by Phil Lorang. The NAAMS is oriented to State and local agencies' networks and contains a definite vision of how those networks should be changing, while the latter guidance document should be a strategy for applying resources in support of tribes which leaves the vision formation to the individual tribes themselves. It should not say what tribes should monitor, but it should provide general concepts having risk-based goal, having clear work plans, tracking accomplishments and resources, etc. It should guide but not bind the hands of ROs as they work with the individual tribes. The guidance document should also identify how tribes can help to meet the goals of the NAAMS, if they wish to do so.

Section IX. Assessment of Ambient Air Quality in Indian Country in the Absence of Air Monitoring – Keith Rose indicated that the section had not changed much since early December. However, it now recommends websites that provide additional information. Preliminary comments addressed a number of topics for inclusion in this section, including: the availability of source data collected by industry, and the need to reference methods for acquiring these data and helpful websites; benefits of a SIP workshop for tribes; the highly technical nature of “Krieking”, how it is useful, and comments from groups like TAMS and OAQPS/AQDAG; reference to ASPEN and NATA as sources of information on air toxics; further comment on BlueSky RAINS (Joe Tikvart will contact Tom Pace and/or Robin Dunkin concerning the use of BlueSky RAINS in the southeastern U.S.)

Next Steps:

1. The process of creating two guidance documents should begin.
2. Final drafts of all current sections are due to Julie by February 11.
3. The next conference call will be in mid-February (2/13).
4. Mary Manous is to draft Section X with input from other Regional Offices.
5. The new “policy and strategies” document, for which Phil Lorang has the lead, should describe EPA policies on resources for tribal monitoring.
6. There is to be a Tribal Air call on Wednesday (2/1) from 2 pm to 3:30pm; topics include: OAQPS reorganization and Tribes (McKelvey); PM NAAQS proposed standards (Wegman/Bachmann); Revisions to monitoring

regulations and NMS (Lorang); and Transition to a new or revised PM NAAQS (Driscoll)